(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) to (c) No. The Religious Accommodation Policy of the Government of the United States of America, as contained in Army Regulation 600-20, dated 18 March, 2008 of the US army provides for officers and soldiers to practice their religious preferences in terms of dress, food, worship etc.

Haj quota for MPs

2150. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:
SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all Members of Parliament have been given quota to recommend two persons for Haj;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether all MPs utilize this every year;

(d) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, MP-wise;

(e) whether Government would increase the Haj quota of MPs from 2 to at least 25 per year who represent the constituency where ratio of Muslim population is higher; and

(f) if so, the details and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) Yes. Each Member of Parliament can recommend two persons for Haj.

(c) and (d) No. Not all MPs utilize it every year. However, the requests received are given due consideration.

(e) and (f) No. At present there is no proposal for increasing the Haj quota of MPs from 2 to 25 per year since the overall quota allocated by Saudi Government to India is based on the Muslim population of the country. The quota made available is accordingly distributed among various States in proportion to the Muslim population there.

Haj quota for States

2151. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:
SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to increase Haj quota to those States or areas where Muslim population is comparatively more concentrated;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?